

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

RESPONSE OF BAY STATE GAS COMPANY TO THE  
FIRST SET OF INFORMATION REQUESTS FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
D. T. E. 05-27

Date: May 18, 2005

Responsible: John E. Skirtich, Consultant (Revenue Requirements)

AG-1-101      Please provide copies of all agreements related to tax sharing or tax allocation between or among the Company and any of its subsidiaries, affiliates, parent corporation or any other entity.

Response:      Please see Attachment AG-1-101.

EXHIBIT D. TAX ALLOCATION AGREEMENT FOR 2002.

September 30, 2002

NISOURCE INC. AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES  
INTERCOMPANY INCOME TAX ALLOCATION AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, NiSource Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware ("NiSource") and a registered holding company under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 ("Act"), together with its subsidiary companies, direct and indirect, listed as parties hereto, comprise the members of the NiSource consolidated group which will join annually in the filing of a consolidated Federal income tax return, and it is now the intention of NiSource and its subsidiaries, direct and indirect, (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "NiSource Group"), to enter into an agreement for the allocation of current federal income taxes; and

WHEREAS, certain members of the NiSource Group will join annually in the filing of certain consolidated state income tax returns (to the extent permitted or required under applicable state income tax laws), and it is now the intention of the NiSource Group to enter into an agreement for the allocation of current state income taxes; and

WHEREAS, by order dated September 12, 2002, the Securities and Exchange Commission has authorized NiSource and its subsidiaries to enter into this agreement as of January 1, 2001 and to allocate consolidated income taxes in the manner herein provided; and

NOW, THEREFORE, each member ("Member") of the NiSource Group does hereby covenant and agree with one another that the current consolidated income tax liabilities of the NiSource Group shall be allocated as follows:

DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Section 1.1 Definitions. For all purposes of this Agreement, except as

otherwise expressly provided, the following terms shall have the following respective meanings:

"Acquisition Indebtedness" means indebtedness incurred by NiSource or NiSource Finance Corp. ("Finance") to finance the acquisition (including related costs) by NiSource of all of the issued and outstanding stock of Columbia Energy Group and any renewals or extensions thereof. Acquisition Indebtedness also includes indebtedness incurred by NiSource or Finance for the purpose of refinancing the indebtedness relating to the acquisition (including related costs) of all of the issued and outstanding stock of Columbia Energy Group.

"Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

"Consolidated Group" means NiSource and all of its subsidiaries which, from time to time, may be included in any (i) federal income tax return filed by NiSource in accordance with sections 1501 and 1502 of the Code or (ii) Other Return.

"Consolidated Return" means any consolidated federal income tax return or Other Return filed by NiSource whether before or after the date hereof, which includes one or more Members of the NiSource Group in a consolidated, combined or unitary group of which NiSource is the common parent.

"Consolidated Return Year" means any period during which NiSource files a consolidated federal income tax return or Other Return that includes one or more Members of the NiSource Group in a consolidated, combined or unitary group of which NiSource is a common parent.

"Consolidated Taxable Income" is the taxable income of the Consolidated Group as computed for federal or state income tax purposes.

"Consolidated Tax Liability" means, with reference to any taxable period, the consolidated, combined or unitary tax liability (including any interest, additions to tax and penalties) of the Consolidated Group for such taxable period (including the consolidated federal income tax liability and other consolidated, combined or unitary liability for Other Taxes).

"Corporate Taxable Income" means the income or loss of an associate company for a tax year computed as though such company had filed a separate return on the same basis as used in the Consolidated Return, except that dividend income from associate companies shall be disregarded, and other intercompany transactions eliminated in the Consolidated Return shall be given appropriate effect.

"Designated Official" means the Vice President, Corporate Tax of NiSource Corporate Services Company or such other official assigned the responsibilities of Vice President, Corporate Tax of NiSource Corporate Services Company.

"Other Return" means any consolidated, combined or unitary return of Other Taxes filed by NiSource or another Member of the NiSource Group, whether before or after the date hereof, which covers the operations of one or more Members of the NiSource Group.

"Other Taxes" means any taxes (including any interest and penalties) payable by NiSource or another Member of the NiSource Group to the government of any state, municipal or other political subdivision, including all agencies and instrumentalities of such government.

"Person" means any individual, partnership, firm, corporation, limited liability company, joint stock company, unincorporated association, joint venture, trust or other entity or enterprise, or any government or political subdivision or agency, department or instrumentality thereof.

"Regulations" means the Treasury Regulations promulgated under the Code.

"Separate Return Tax" means the tax on the Corporate Taxable Income of a corporation which is a Member computed for purposes of this Agreement as though such company were not a Member of a consolidated group.

Section 1.2 References, Etc. The words "hereof", "herein" and "hereunder" and words of similar import when used in this Agreement shall refer to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular provision of this Agreement. All

terms defined herein in the singular shall have the same meanings in the plural and vice versa. All References herein to any Person includes such Person's successors and assigns. All references herein to Articles and Sections shall, unless the context requires a different construction, be deemed to be references to the Articles and Sections of this Agreement. For purposes of this Agreement, Finance will not be treated as a Member of the NiSource Group and all items of income, deduction, loss, credit or any other tax attribute of Finance shall be treated as an item of income, deduction, loss, credit or tax attribute of NiSource. In this Agreement, unless a clear contrary intention appears the word "including" (and with correlative meaning "include") means "including but not limited to".

## PREPARATION AND FILING OF TAX RETURNS; ALLOCATION OF TAXES

### Section 2.1 Federal Returns.

(a) A U.S. consolidated federal income tax return shall be prepared and filed by NiSource for each taxable year in respect of which this Agreement is in effect and for which the Consolidated Group is required or permitted to file a consolidated federal income tax return. NiSource and all its subsidiaries shall execute and file such consents, elections and other documents that may be required or appropriate for the proper filing of such returns.

(b) (i) The Consolidated Group will elect, on a timely basis, in accordance with Code Section 1552(b) and Section 1.1552-1(c)(2) of the Regulations to allocate its consolidated tax liability (other than alternative minimum tax ("AMT") and its related credits) among its Members under the method described in Sections 1.1502-33(d)(3) and 1.1552-1(a)(2) commencing with the consolidated taxable year ended December 31, 2001. The fixed percentage to be used for purposes of Regulations section 1.1502-33(d)(3)(i) is 100%. The general effect of such method is to first allocate the consolidated tax liability among the Members of the Consolidated Group on the basis of the percentage of the total consolidated tax which the tax of such Member (other than AMT and its related credits) if computed on a separate return basis would bear to the total amount of the taxes (other than AMT and its related credits) for all Members of

the group so computed. Then such method allocates an additional amount (the "Tax Benefit Amount") to each Member up to, but not greater than, the excess, if any, of its Separate Return Tax liability (other than AMT and its related credits) over the amount allocated to such Member in the previous sentence. The total of the Tax Benefit Amounts allocated to Members shall result in payments to, and an increase in the earnings and profits of, the Members who had items of deduction, loss or credits to which such Tax Benefit Amount is attributable. This election is intended to comply with Rule 45(c)(5) under the Act, as modified by Section 2(d) below.

(ii) The allocation of the alternative minimum tax liability incurred by the NiSource Group and the resulting minimum tax credit shall be allocated in the manner set forth in Proposed and Temporary Treasury Regulation Sections 1.1502-55. This method generally allocates (i) any AMT paid by the NiSource Group based on the relative separate adjusted AMT of each Member and (ii) the minimum tax credit (AMTC) on the basis of the AMT previously assigned to such Member and assuming that AMTC is utilized on a "first in/first out" methodology, and that to the extent that AMTC arising in one year is not fully utilized, such AMTC is utilized proportionately by the Members previously assigned AMT for that year.

(c) Each Member's allocable share of the consolidated income tax liability as determined in Section 2.1(b) hereby shall be used in both (i) the determination of each Member's earnings and profits and (ii) determining the amounts to be paid (as provided in Section 3.4 of this Agreement) by Members to NiSource with respect to each Member's share of the Consolidated Group's Tax liability and payments from NiSource to Members with respect to the use of a Member's tax attributes.

(d) (i) The aggregate of all amounts paid by Members of the Consolidated Group (the "Paying Members") as a result of the excess of each Members' Separate Return Tax liability (as determined under Section 1.1552-1(a)(2)(ii) of the Regulations) over the amount allocated to such Member as its share of the Consolidated Tax Liability under Code Section 1552 (i.e., the Tax Benefit Amount) shall be paid by NiSource to the other Members (the "Loss Members")

which had tax deductions, losses and credits to which such payments by the Paying Members are attributable. The apportionment of such payments among Loss Members shall be in a manner that reflects the Consolidated Group's absorption of such tax attributes in the manner described in Section 2.1(e) below. The payments to the Loss Members for their tax attributes shall be pursuant to a consistent method which reasonably reflects such items of loss or credit (such consistency and reasonableness to be determined by the Designated Official).

(ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 2.1(d)(i), the Tax Benefit Amount allocated to NiSource and paid to NiSource as a result of its being a Loss Member shall be limited to its Tax Benefit Amount determined without regard to this section 2.1(b)(ii) multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is NiSource's interest deduction attributable to Acquisition Indebtedness, and the denominator of which is the sum of all of NiSource's deductions. The portion of NiSource's Tax Benefit Amount which cannot be allocated and paid to NiSource due to the operation of this Section shall be reallocated to Paying Members of the Consolidated Group other than NiSource in accordance with the principles contained in section 2.1(b)(i).

(e) In apportioning the payments to Loss Members for the Tax Benefit Amount pursuant to Section 2.1(d) hereof:

(i) any consolidated net operating loss ("NOL") shall be allocated among the group Members pursuant to Regulations Section 1.1502-21(b). To the extent the consolidated NOL is carried back, any Member's individually allocable NOL shall be deemed carried back and utilized in proportion to the amount that the Member's NOL bears to the consolidated NOL. Analogous principles shall apply in the case of NOL carryforwards;

(ii) with respect to each type of credit used to offset all or a portion of the Consolidated Tax Liability otherwise payable, such credit shall be allocated among the Members by crediting to each Member an amount of credit which that Member would have available to utilize on a separate return basis in a manner consistent with the method set forth in Section 2.1(e)(i) above.

(iii) the cost of any credit recapture which results in the payment of tax shall be specifically allocated to the Member whose credit is recaptured determined in a manner consistent with the provisions of Section 2.1(e)(i) above.

(f) The allocation of tax shall be subject to further adjustment from time to time on account of the payment of additional tax or the receipt of a refund attributable to either the filing of an amended return or on account of the results of an audit conducted by the Internal Revenue Service or other relevant taxing authority.

Section 2.2 Other Taxes. (a) NiSource will prepare and file (or cause to be prepared and filed) all returns of Other Taxes which are required to be filed with respect to the operations of NiSource and its subsidiaries. In the event any taxing authority requires or permits that a combined, consolidated or unitary return be filed for Other Taxes, which return includes both NiSource and a subsidiary, NiSource may elect to file such return and shall have the right to require any Member to be included in such return. NiSource will advise each of its subsidiaries included in each Other Return and each governmental office in which any Other Return is filed. Other Taxes shall be allocated among the NiSource Group in a manner that is consistent with the method set forth in Article 2 hereof. Furthermore, amounts due to NiSource or from NiSource, with respect to Other Taxes, shall be determined in a manner consistent with Sections 2.1(b) and 2.1(d).

(b) Each Member of the NiSource Group that does not file an Other Return together with any other Member of the NiSource Group shall be solely responsible and obligated to pay the tax liability with respect to such return from its own funds. Such returns shall be prepared and filed by NiSource or the Member filing the Other Return.

(c) If any Member of the NiSource Group is required to file a combined, consolidated or unitary return for Other Taxes with another Member of the NiSource Group, but not with NiSource (an "Other Taxes Subgroup"), then NiSource shall have the rights, powers and obligations to file such tax returns and



apportion among and, collect and remit from, the applicable Members such Other Taxes as the rights, powers and obligations given to NiSource under this Agreement with respect to the Consolidated Tax Liability. Such returns shall be prepared and filed by NiSource. If the right to file a combined, consolidated or unitary return for Other Taxes is optional, then NiSource shall decide which of its subsidiaries should, to the extent permitted by law, join in filing of such return.

Section 2.3 Member Tax Information. The Members of the Consolidated Group shall submit the tax information requested by the Designated Official of NiSource in the manner and by the date requested, in order to enable the Designated Official to calculate the amounts payable by the Members pursuant to Article 3 hereof.

#### RESPONSIBILITY FOR TAX; INTERCOMPANY PAYMENTS

Section 3.1 Responsibility. Assuming the Members of the Consolidated Group have fulfilled their obligations pursuant to this Article III, then NiSource will be solely responsible for, and will indemnify and hold each Member of the Consolidated Group harmless with respect to, the payment of: (a) the Consolidated Tax Liability for each taxable period for which, as determined under Section 2.1 hereof, NiSource filed a Consolidated Return or should have been filed; and (b) any and all Other Taxes due or payable with respect to any Other Return which is filed by NiSource or should have been filed.

Section 3.2 Federal Tax Payments. (a) With respect to each Consolidated Return Year, the Designated Official of NiSource shall estimate and assess or pay to Members of the Consolidated Group their share of estimated tax payments to be made on a projected consolidated federal income tax return for each year. In making this determination, NiSource shall elect a method for determining estimated tax and each Member shall follow that method; provided, however, under no circumstances shall a Loss Member be paid any amount described in Section 2.1(d) until a date after which NiSource has filed the

Consolidated Return for such Consolidated Return Year. Such Members will pay, to

NiSource or be paid by NiSource, such estimates not later than the 15th day of the 4th, 6th, 9th and 12th months of such Consolidated Return Year. With respect to any extension payment, the Designated Official of NiSource shall estimate and assess or pay to Members of the Consolidated Group their share of such extension payment. The difference between (1) a Member's estimated tax payments used for computation of the quarterly estimated payments plus their extension payments and (2) such Member's actual Tax Liability for any Consolidated Return. Year as determined under Section 2.1(b) hereof, shall be paid to NiSource or by NiSource within sixty (60) days after the filing of the consolidated federal income tax return.

(b) NiSource shall have sole authority, to the exclusion of all other Members of the Consolidated Group, to agree to any adjustment proposed by the Internal Revenue Service or any other taxing authority with respect to items of income, deductions or credits, as well as interest or penalties, attributable to any Member of the Consolidated Group during any Consolidated Return Year in which such Member was a Member of the Consolidated Group notwithstanding that such adjustment may increase the amounts payable by Members of the Consolidated Group under this Section 3.2 or Section 3.3 hereof. In the event of any adjustment to the Consolidated Tax Liability relating to items of income, deductions or credit, as well as interest or penalties, attributable to any Member of the Consolidated Group by reason of an amended return, claim for refund or audit by the Internal Revenue Service or any other taxing authority, the liability of all other Members of the Consolidated Group under paragraphs (a) of this Section 3.2 or Section 3.3 hereof shall be redetermined to give effect to such adjustment as if such adjustment had been made as a part of the original computation of such liability, and payment from a Member to NiSource or by NiSource to a Member, as the case may be, shall be promptly made after any payments are made to the Internal Revenue Service or any other taxing authority, refunds received or final determination of the matter in the case of contested proceedings. In such event, any payments between the parties shall bear interest at the then prevailing rate or rates on deficiencies assessed by the Internal Revenue Service or any other relevant taxing authority, during the period from the due date of the Consolidated Return (determined without regard to extensions of time for the filing thereof) for the Consolidated Return Year to which the

adjustments were made to the date of payment.

Section 3.3 Other Tax Payments. Payments by a Member with respect to Other Taxes and required estimates thereof for which any other Member has joint and several liability shall be calculated and made by or to such Member in the same manner as that provided in Section 3.2. The principles set forth in Section 3.2 governing the determination and adjustment of payments as well as the method of payment to or from such Member with respect to federal income taxes shall be equally applicable in determining and adjusting the amount of and due date of payments to be made to or from such subsidiary with respect to Other Taxes and estimates thereof. Each Member shall pay, directly to the appropriate taxing authority, all taxes for which such Member is liable and for which no other Member has joint or several liability.

Section 3.4 Payment Mechanics. (a) Any payments to be made by a subsidiary of NiSource pursuant to Section 2.1, 2.2, 3.2 or 3.3 hereof shall be made by such subsidiary to NiSource by either promptly crediting as an offset against amounts owed to such Member by NiSource or to the extent no amounts are owed to such Member by NiSource, by cash payments to NiSource. To the extent any payments are to be made to a subsidiary with respect to the use of such subsidiary's tax attributes by the Consolidated Group pursuant to Section 2.1, 2.2, 3.2 or 3.3 hereof, NiSource shall make such payment to such subsidiary by either promptly crediting as an offset against amounts owned by such Member to NiSource, or to the extent no amounts are owed to NiSource by such Member, by cash payments to the Member.

(b) Tax payments by NiSource with respect to any Consolidated Tax Liability shall be paid by NiSource and shall be debited to the Member of the Consolidated Group for their respective shares of such Consolidated Tax Liability as determined pursuant to Article II hereof. Tax Refunds received by NiSource with respect to any Consolidated Tax Liability, shall be paid by NiSource to the Member of the Consolidated Group entitled to such Tax Refund, as determined.

(c) NiSource shall be responsible for maintaining the books and

records reflecting the intercompany accounts reflecting the amounts owned, collected and paid with respect to Taxes pursuant to this Agreement.

(d) NiSource may delegate to other Members of the Consolidated Group responsibilities for the collection and disbursement of monies as required under this Agreement as well as responsibilities for maintaining books and records as required under this Agreement.

Section 3.5 Administration. The provisions of this Agreement shall be administered by the Designated Official of NiSource. The interpretations of this Agreement by the Designated Official of NiSource shall be conclusive.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

RESPONSE OF BAY STATE GAS COMPANY TO THE  
FIRST SET OF INFORMATION REQUESTS FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
D. T. E. 05-27

Date: May 18, 2005

Responsible: John E. Skirtich, Consultant (Revenue Requirements)

AG-1-103      Has the Company or any of its subsidiaries engaged on any inter-company transactions within the meaning of Treasury Regulations §1.1502-13 for which income or gain will remain unrecognized as of the end of the test year? If yes, explain in detail the income or gain, including all work papers and assumptions.

Response:      No, the Company has not.